



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

December 23, 2003

EX-DOCTOR SENTENCED AGAIN

Tampa, FL - On December 17, 2003, U.S. District Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich sentenced SURINDAR S. BEDI to fifty-four months' imprisonment followed by three years of supervised release. The Court also ordered him to pay restitution in the amount of \$664,000 to the U.S. Department of Justice and \$1,008,903 to the Internal Revenue Service. BEDI plead guilty on June 18, 2003 to one count of conspiracy to evade taxes, to commit wire and immigration document fraud, and to mislead and defraud a health care program.

BEDI, who was convicted in 1990 in Federal Court of conspiracy to defraud the government and filing of false claims and sentenced to five years' imprisonment, established a business shortly after being released from the Bureau of Prisons. He used that business to defraud alien medical doctors hoping to remain in the United States after completing their education here. BEDI promised to assist them to remain legally in the U.S. but generally provided no services or provided false immigration documents in exchange for the money he was paid by these alien doctors. As a result, most of the alien

doctors were forced to leave the U.S. without recovering the funds paid to BEDI. To exasperate the problem, BEDI diverted the money he was paid and failed to pay the correct tax, either corporate or personal, to the IRS. In addition, BEDI covertly established and controlled a company providing medical services to patients and which billed Medicare, an act that was prohibited by his 1990 conviction.

The case was investigated by agents of the United States Department of Agriculture, Department of Homeland Security Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Health and Human Services, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald L. Hansen, Special Prosecutions Section, Tampa Division.